

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

NICOLE JOHNSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:23-cv-00091-JHC

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO PRO  
BONO COMMITTEE

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Application for Court-Appointed Counsel. Dkt. # 10. Plaintiff is currently proceeding pro se. The Court has considered the Application, Defendant's response thereto, and Plaintiff's reply.

Plaintiff initiated this action in King County Superior Court. Dkt. # 1. Defendant removed the matter to this Court in January of this year. *Id.* The same month, Defendant moved to dismiss the action for failure to state a claim. Dkt. # 5. That motion was re-noted by the Court for Friday, April 28, 2023. Dkt. # 12. (Below, the Court again re-notes the motion to dismiss.)

This District has implemented a plan for court-appointed representation of civil rights litigants. The plan currently in effect requires the Court to assess a plaintiff's case before

1 forwarding it to a *pro bono* screening committee for further review and a possible appointment  
2 of *pro bono* counsel. *See* General Order No. 16-20, Section 3(c) (Dec. 8, 2020). The Court  
3 assesses the plaintiff's case to determine that it is not frivolous and that the plaintiff is financially  
4 eligible. *Id.* Plaintiff's submissions satisfy the Court that there is an adequate basis to refer this  
5 case to the Screening Committee.

6 Under Section 3(c) of the District's *pro bono* plan, the Court DIRECTS the Clerk of the  
7 Court to forward the operative complaint (Dkt. # 1-1), the motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 10),  
8 and the pleadings and documents filed to date to the Screening Committee. *See* General Order  
9 No. 16-20, Section 3(c). The Court ORDERS the Screening Committee to review the case and  
10 make a recommendation to the Court in accordance with the *pro bono* plan and the rules for the  
11 *pro bono* panel on or before May 5, 2023. *See id.*, Section 3(f). The Clerk shall RENOTE  
12 Plaintiff's motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 10) for May 5, 2023, pending the Screening  
13 Committee's recommendation as to whether the Court should appoint counsel. *See id.* The  
14 Clerk shall RENOTE Defendant's motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 5) for May 26, 2023.

15 Dated this 4th day of April, 2023.

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18 John H. Chun  
19 United States District Judge  
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